***The Crucible* Essay Prompt**

Though Arthur Miller's play, *The Crucible*, is about the Salem Witch Trials, it functions as an allegorical commentary on McCarthyism and the Red Scare, of which Arthur Miller found himself at the center.  Miller refused to give names to the House Un-American Activities Committee, and he was held in contempt of Congress, fined, and temporarily blacklisted.

You must do three things:  identify the purpose of John Steinbeck’s essay, analyze the strategies he uses in order to achieve his purpose, and draw comparisons between Steinbeck’s argument and specific aspects of Miller's play*, The Crucible*.

Things to keep in mind:

You might want to articulate a dual purpose.  This will help you develop a more nuanced discussion.

To analyze means to break something down into its component parts in order to understand it more fully.

To compare means to examine in order to discover similarities *and* differences.

Avoid plot summary and generalities.

2 ½ - 3 pages

Times New Roman

12 point font

MLA format

You will be assessed on your use of language and evidence, your analysis of Steinbeck’s essay and Miller’s play, the structure of your argument, and format.